



Meeting Minutes

May 4, 2006

Old Redmond Schoolhouse Community Center

I. Call to order/Welcome to Citizen Guests

The special joint meeting of the Redmond Park Board, with Trails Commission, and Arts Commission representation was called to order by Park Board Chairperson Lori Snodgrass at 7:02 p.m.

Park Board members present: Chairperson Snodgrass; Co-chair: Kelsey; Board members: Ladd, Dige, Bourguignon, Margeson, Stewart and Youth Advocate Duncanson.

Absent and Excused: Youth Advocate Thomas

Trails Commission members present: McDonald, Bechmann, and Youth Advocate; Pfaff
Arts Commissioners present: Tarapolsi, Moon, Kusinski, and Stillin

City staff present: Craig Larsen, Parks Director; Tim Cox, Parks Planning Manager; Dave Tuchek, Park Operations Manager, Sandra Bettencourt; Recreation Manager, Melna Skillingsstead; Arts Coordinator, and Sharon Sato, Recording Secretary.

Audience: Kurt Seemans, City Transportation Planner
KGK Consultants, Paul Fuesel and Sue Byer

II. Approval of Minutes

The following corrections were recommended to the April 6, 2006 minutes:

Page 3, addition, bottom of page, "Parks Board spoke in support of the pamphlets and pocket guides."

Page 4, end of section B,"Parks Board is supportive of the proposed renovations to the ORSCC."

Page 5, section E, second sentence, "an easement will also be acquired to extend the trail."

Motion to accept minutes as amended by: Margeson

Second by: Ladd

Approved: 7-0

III. Items from the Audience

None

IV. Additions to the Agenda/Handouts

None

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Park Bond

Snodgrass explained the purpose of the joint meeting as:

- Possible projects for a potential Park Bond
- projects of importance from each Commissions
- accomplishments in terms of success for a bond measure
- how each Commission can be effective in a bond measure
- combing efforts to ensure a successful bond measure

The Park Board has strongly supported and suggested to City Council that a bond be brought forth on the November, 2006 ballot. The City will proceed with the bond measure dependant on how successful the levy measure is in mid-May.

Snodgrass noted that Trust for Public Lands (TPL), did a survey (2005) for the City suggesting the highest rate of success for a bond measure and for public turnout would be during a regular election cycle. The size of the bond measure would be approximately \$8.5 - \$10 million or up to \$15 million dependant on possible "re-survey". During the prior survey over sixty percent of citizens were in favor of a bond measure. Super majority (60%) vote is necessary to go forward with a \$15 million bond.

Larsen clarified there are two components:

- 1) series of construction projects for the bond
- 2) companion operating levy

Staff is working with Finance to get a sense of what dollar amounts would mean for taxpayers (et. al. \$8. \$10, \$15 mil.) at each level. Larsen explained that operating dollars will drive the rate more than bond projects, establishing the revenue stream bonding against this for 10-15-20 years and the on-going operating dollars are every year and not bonded against.

Arts Commissioner Tarapolsi identified the following bond measure projects:

- Winter Performance Series of Arts in the Parks (Anderson Park, City Hall)
- ROS, Redmond Outdoor Sculpture Park (City Hall, City-wide, City parks)
- Purchase of sculptures – Indoor/Outdoor Performing Arts Center, one central place for performances, parking, easy access, wheelchair accessible.
- Dudley Carter Park Site – potential for art pieces.
- Indoor Arts Center which facilitates arts education programming, studio spaces.

Trails Commission – Bechmann and McDonald identified three projects the Trails Commission felt have a significant impact on vision of future trails in Redmond

- Bear and Evans Creek Trail system connects parks, schools and trails. Needs land acquisition, final design and construction of various segments.

- Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Railroad Acquisition, opportunity, impact to downtown and other parts of the city; linkage to regional trails.
- Puget Sound Energy (PSE) Trail – extend into west part of town, “missing link” between Farrel McWhirter Park and Watershed, west end of Power Line Trail possibility of extension to Willows Creek Neighborhood Park, expanded neighborhood linkages.
- Dudley Carter Park Site – potential trail head for three big trails, Sammamish River Trail, Bear Creek Trail (around Redmond Town Center) and Heron Rookery Trail, add 10-15 parking spaces.

Larsen noted that the Dudley Carter site will soon be transferred from King County. Basic clean up will be done, hazard control, stabilization of the Haida House and an interim parking plan will be put into practice. Interim use should begin in June, staff will monitor the site and usage for summer months, the planning process will begin after public input and process.

Kelsey suggested the Board be updated in the event the public inquires. Kelsey inquired if the Board would be able to support the bond as a group. Larsen responded that as citizens of Redmond, as individuals, outside of Board/Commission meeting, they could show individual or group support. Signs, brochures, door belling would need to be separate private fundraising efforts done by a citizen.

Snodgrass requested a list of five to ten names, from each Commission, of citizens in the community, who would be willing to be part of a bond campaign committee, who would be invited to a series of meetings and be educated with information (city, arts, parks, projects, funding, dollar amounts), and will continue to drive the bond forward.

Bourguignon explained that encouraging citizens, that can be influential to take part in the Citizens Advisory Committee, would become the core and driving force of the campaign. These individuals would become knowledgeable and strong proponents of the proposal and can go before the Council with this information, formulate a plan, raise money, campaign and then go forward to present to the public, a hopefully, successful bond campaign.

B. Bear Creek Parkway Extension - Seemann, Byers, Fuesel

Seemann's (City Transportation Planner) last presented this project, to the Board, in concept form at a 30% PS&E (developing plans, specification and construction estimates). He noted this presentation, final design work at the 30% level, may be going before Council on June 13. Seemann asked for comments from the Board at the end of the presentation.

Paul Fuesel, KPG Consultant, reiterated the early vision to the Park Board:

- protecting the Heron Rookery and to provide stewardship and connectivity to existing places, trails and roadways
- provide connectivity from the 159th RiverWalk Gateway to the Bear Creek Extension and 161st
- stronger connection to Town Center Open Space
- bicycle use - multi-use trail
- pedestrian traffic - sidewalks on all frontages

- transit connection - Metro or Sound Transit – down 161st, Bear Creek, Leary Way to 520 – future potential connection (not yet established)
- Street connection – Old Town connection
- Downtown District Connections – embrace Old Town

Byer noted the following specifics of the Heron Rookery Trail:

- trail for bicycle and pedestrian use only
- 12' trail wide - no tree removal
- wider than 12' trail – 14 trees removed
- developing open space enhancement plan
- working with Don Norman, Cathy Beam, Teresa Kluver
- no plans for pedestrian trail within the forested area
- fenced viewing area with informational signs
- Tree Solutions hired to survey trees – 11 landmark trees (2 unhealthy, 9 healthy)
- Accommodate street parking as possible
- Consistent with downtown parking – street parking
- Burlington Northern Right-of-Way will provide a potential trail connection
- Expand habitat open space to edge of sidewalk
- Build in segments/Phasing Plan
 - Connects before 159th turns and ties into NE 174th Street into Town Center
 - Possible portion of Phase B – increase in sewer capacity partial improvement
 - Phase F – connection from Trail to existing trail
 - City to negotiate for crossing
 - Phase E – long term – waiting for redevelopment
 - Future improvements - Determine if signal is required at 166th and 76th in 2014-2016

Property acquisition is a big part of the future schedule, the City is continuing to do analysis on the King County Shop site clean up.

Stewart – would like to see a connection between the Old Town, river and park amenities. Consultants are trying to accomplish interfacing with layered plantings, open boulevard feel with plaza.

Ladd – agrees with minimizing impact on grove section, multi-modal access (foot, bike, etc.), opportunities to move within the city other than with a car, and appreciate the open and natural aspects of the project.

Kelsey – would like to see the bikes on 159th and encourage pedestrian traffic on a separate trail, minimizing conflicts and danger. Stewart inquired if traffic calming techniques could be used to slow bike traffic speed (meandering sidewalks, slopes, etc.). Slow zones have been planned to slow traffic down at corners. Trail along Rookery will be minimized in width, will not impact any trees; and adding an impervious surface to the trail. Some signage will be added for educational intent. Plans suggest removing the ornamental shrubbery along the sidewalk along Leary Way to open up the view. Concerned about on-street parking being used for commercial use rather than trail users. Stewart suggested a municipal garage in the downtown area.

Margeson – likes plan, 10-20 years from now have created another open space in downtown corridor, residents living downtown can enjoy the walking loop of planned trail, in favor of minimizing the width of the sidewalk corridor to discourage bicycle speed.

Bourguignon – thoughtful work, can see how development will grow around this area thanks to careful planning, will shape the way Redmond looks in the future.

Dige – concerns regarding trees and bike/pedestrian traffic – 11 trees removed, replace all landmark trees (3:1 ratio – replace all significant trees, planting a large number of street trees, suggested replacement of conifers). Walking/bike path within the rookery may not be a good idea, this could potentially disturb the flora and fauna in the site. Likes overall plan and the careful planning of the project.

Duncanson – likes the plan, the plaza idea inviting, livens up area, educational value for parents and children.

Snodgrass – great job, ensure that trail is 12' maximum including shoulders – graveling with some impervious surface, parks staff can be more responsive in dealing with signage and controlling trail as usage increases. Pedestrian Lighting – low pathway lighting, safety factor, discourage damage and vandalism, maintenance issues, timers or motion detectors. Kelsey is opposed to lighting and felt that there would be some lighting from area businesses and residences. Improvement of 161st will be beneficial to skatepark users – safety and access key points.

VI. New Business

Staff provided an overview of the following projects:

A. Grass Lawn Park, Phase III Introduction

Bruce Dees will give a presentation to the Board at the June meeting to give an update on Phase III of Grass Lawn Park improvements. Dees was project consultant on Phases I and Phase II. Phase III is located in the northeast corner of the park site.

- Phase I - soccer renovations and improved lighting
- Phase II - softball fields, tennis courts and hitting wall
- Phase III - maintenance and operations facility improvements, basketball courts renovation, and demolition of existing residential structure and replacement with gathering pavillion, redesign of existing parking – possible additional parking (10% increase), stormwater drainage improvements, \$800,000-\$850,000 construction budget, City has submitted an IAC grant for a possible additional \$300,000.

B. Bear Creek Trail at Bear Creek Park

- Trail behind Safeway
- Bids open
- Contract signed
- Construction begin in May
- Extension of Bear Creek Trail, connecting Redmond Way with Union Hill Road

C. Idywood Park –Picnic Shelter/Volleyball Area

- Picnic shelter north of Idywood Creek buffer
- Sand volleyball court to be located in proximity to the beach about 200 feet south of restroom, may be under construction within the next few weeks
- Meadow area, south of restroom 300'
- Separated from beach area to avoid beach activity
- 150' from children's playground area
- Final design of picnic shelter maybe available for next meeting

D. Hartman Park Renovation – Fields 5/6, Fields 1-4 Improvements (Fall/Winter 2006)

Fields 5 & 6 Lighting (Phase II)

- Lighting plan is in progress
- Working with PSE to provide connection to existing transformer
- Install in June

Fields 1-4 Infield Renovation

- Partnering with King County
- Received \$50,000 grant from King County
- Redmond West Little League donating \$25,000
- Applied for \$10,000 Starbucks Grant
- \$162,000 city funds
- infields are to be graded with removal of existing material and new under drainage system on fields
- new infield mix to be installed
- lessen rain outs
- Installation fall 2006

E. Dudley Carter Site/Slough Site Plan

- Interim plan for summer with elements including: portable toilets, trail heads, gravel or grass parking 6-8 spaces
- future park planning required

VIII. Reports

A. Redmond Youth Partnership Advisory Committee Summit

Snodgrass and Dickinson attend the Redmond Youth Partnership Advisory Committee Summit held at the Old FireHouse Teen. 120 attendees. Snodgrass requested a list of suggestions from the recreation group with ideas for teen programming. Feedback in the next two to three weeks.

B. Well Treatment Facility at Anderson Park

It was reported by Snodgrass that Council gave direction to relocate the proposed water treatment facility outside Anderson Park. Council directed staff to look for other locations in close proximity to the existing Anderson Park Water Treatment site.

Snodgrass thanked the Board for their clear, concise, diligent and unified efforts in protecting Anderson Park as an invaluable resource to the community.

IX. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: Margeson
Second by: Ladd
Approved: 7-0

Meeting adjourned at 9:44 p.m.

By: _____
Lori Snodgrass, Chair

Date _____

Minutes prepared by Recording Secretary, Sharon Sato

Next Regular Meeting

June 1, 2006
7:00 p.m.
Redmond Sr. Center
8703 160th Avenue NE